

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/982,304	SAITO, SHINICHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
Nicholas G. Giles		2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 05/22/2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 2 and 4-10.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 2, no prior art could be found that teaches or fairly suggests a solid-state image pickup device which red, blue, green filters are arranged in a Bayer arrangement, wherein gray filters are included and replace green filters that are adjacent to red filters in the horizontal direction or the gray filters replace green filters that are adjacent to blue filters in the horizontal direction.

Regarding claim 4, no prior art could be found that teaches or fairly suggests a solid-state image pickup device which red, blue, green, and gray filters are included where gray filters replace some green filters, where a white balance correction means is included and based off the carrier balance means for the gray filters.

Regarding claims 5-7. Claims 5-7 are respectively dependent on claims 4-6 are therefore allowed.

Regarding claim 8, no prior art could be found that teaches or fairly suggests a solid-state image pickup device which red, blue, green filters are arranged in a g-stripe arrangement, and gray filters replace every other green filter in each column of the g-stripe.

Regarding claim 9, no prior art could be found that teaches or fairly suggests a solid-state image pickup device which red, blue, green, and gray filters are included where gray filters replace some green filters, where the transmissivity of the gray filter is set so that the integration value in the visible region is adjusted to be equal to that of the green filters.

Regarding claim 10, no prior art could be found that teaches or fairly suggests a solid-state image pickup device which red, blue, green, and gray filters are included where gray filters replace some green filters, where the transmissivity of the gray filter is set so that the integration value in the visible region is adjusted to be below to that of the green filters.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas G. Giles whose telephone number is (571) 272-2824. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ngoc - Yen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NGG



NGOC-YEN VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER